

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRAVDA CAUTIOUSLY APPROVES ON HUA KUO-FENG

1. SUMMARY. MOSCOW'S FIRST DIRECT COMMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF HUA KUO-FENG AS CHINA'S ACTING PREMIER PORTRAYS HIM AS A "MODERATE" WHO IS NEVERTHELESS ACCEPTABLE TO MAO. THE REFERENCE TO HUA IS BURIED IN A COMMENTARY ON CHINESE INTERNAL POLITICS WHICH SEES EVIDENCE OF A CONTINUING POWER STRUGGLE IN WHICH THE "LEFTISTS" HAVE THE UPPER HAND. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (FEB 13) CARRIES A COMMENTARY BY TASS OBSERVER A. PETROV CALLED "INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUGGLE IN CHINA." THE ITEM DISCUSSES THE NEW "CAMPAIGN" (SINCE THE SECOND HALF OF JANUARY) AGAINST THOSE WHO OPPOSED THE CULTURAL
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REVOLUTION. IT CITES PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THOSE CALLED

"CAPITULATIONISTS" AND "REVISIONISTS IN POSITIONS OF POWER," WHICH THE ARTICLE POINTS OUT MEANS THOSE REHABILITATED AFTER THE "REPRESSIONS" OF THE CR. PETROV SAYS THAT THE "LEFTISTS," USING MAO IN HIS WEAKENED STATE THUS HOPE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION, WHICH ALREADY INCLUDES CONTROL OF THE PROPAGANDA APPARATUS AND "POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE" IN THE PARTY APPARATUS. THE LEFTISTS, USING MAO'S LINE ON "ANTI-SOVIETISM" AND "GREAT-POWERISM," SEEK TO INSTALL THEMSELVES IN POSITIONS OF POWER IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY BEFORE HE DIES. AT THE SAME TIME, SAYS PETROV, "MODERATES" OR "PRAGMATISTS" IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND MILITARY APPARATUS ADVOCATE A "REALISTIC" LINE CONCENTRATING ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THEY HOPE TO TURN TO SOLUTIONS OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. AMONG THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL LOYAL TO MAO BUT WHO NEVERTHELESS ARE "MODERATES." HUA KUO-FENG IS ONE OF THESE, SAYS PETROV, AGREEING WITH WESTERN PRESS COMMENTS THAT HE IS A "COMPROMISE FIGURE" AS ACTING PREMIER.

4. THUS THE INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE IS BECOMING SHARPER, SAYS PETROV, AS THE LEFTISTS SEEK TO SET A MAOIST COURSE FOR THE FUTURE. AS PART OF THEIR EFFORT TO GAIN POWER, THEY WILL USE ANTI-SOVIETISM AND SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE WORST REACTIONARY FORCES.

5. COMMENT. THE COMMENT ON HUA IS CIRCUMSPECT, TO BE SURE, BUT SOVIET ARTICLES ON CHINA RARELY GIVE ANYONE EVEN THIS MUCH APPROVAL. IT SHOWS THAT MOSCOW IS STILL WATCHING AND WAITING, AND EXPECTS THE POWER STRUGGLE TO CONTINUE. BUT HUA IS CLEARLY PREFERABLE IN SOVIET EYES TO TENG HSIAO-PING, WHOM THEY CONSIDERED ANTI-SOVIET. STOESSEL

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